

Honjo Castle Town Explanation Board 8

Important point of Eastern of Castle Town “Osawa River and Nimaibashi (Nimai bridge)“

The Osawa River, which runs from the north-south on the east side of the ruins of Honjo Castle, functioned as the outer moat of the castle. At the time, the town was divided along this Osawa River as Bukemachi (samurai town) on the west side and Ashigarumachi (foot soldiers town) and Teramachi (temple town) on the east side.

There were two main routes for east-west traffic to and from the castle town: crossing the “Nimaibashi” over the Osawa River from the present location into Yachimachi, proceeding south and then turning east to the Onomichi (Ono road) to the Honjo road and Yashima road, or crossing the reed bridge north of the castle into Hachimanmachi (present Yachimachi).

Of these, this street that crosses the Nimaibashi was close to the castle and it was an important eastern entrance and exit to the castle town center. A look at the area around the present location at the castle illustration below, which the shogunate ordered the clans to draw in the 1st year of Shoho era (1644) shows that, as well as the Daimon gate on the north-west side of the castle, there was also a gate on the west side of Nimaibashi. It was also surrounded by earthworks, indicating that the area was very important in terms of defense.

Besides, the illustration of Honjo Castle Town from the early 18th century also depicts “Goyo Urushi forest (lacquer forest for business)” near the present location of Kadare West Car Park, and a “Daikuya” (carpenter shop) further to the south across the street from the present location. This also indicates that the facilities related to the castle maintenance were located near the Nimaibashi at the time.

※The Osawa River is an underground waterway in the premises of the Cultural Center Kadare.

This explanation board is was founded by the East Japan Railway Culture Foundation for local cultural activities.